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learned by experience or by observation as to effective methods of this social substitution. Thus the design of the following investigation has very definite limits. It is not an academic or technical, but strictly a utilitarian and practical inquiry. . . .

"The first step in the investigation . . . was the procuring of evidence from all parts of the country. The committee have endeavored to reach the most unprejudiced and the best-informed authorities in each community, and the responses to their demands have been painstaking, sympathetic, and generous. . . . On the basis of these many and varied reports Mr. Calkins has prepared his successive chapters, discussing in succession the various possible substitutes for the saloon, and illustrating the advantages and disadvantages of each substitute by reference to the evidence put in his hands. . . ."

To comment upon the contents of the volume would be virtually to anticipate the synthesis of the ethical subcommittee. Meanwhile it is enough to say that every fact stated in this volume deserves to be weighed by every person concerned with the problems of intemperance. The Committee of Fifty has already justified itself by its works.

A. W. S.

*La méthode historique appliquée aux sciences sociales.* Par CH. SEIGNOBOS, Maître de conférences à la Faculté des lettres de l'Université de Paris. Paris: Félix Alcan. Pp. 322.

THIS work is in two parts: first, the historic method applied to documents of the social sciences; second, the historic method and social history. The first part is virtually a résumé of the *Introduction aux Études historiques*, by Langlois and Seignobos, of which Henry Holt & Co. published a translation in 1898. The second part is said by the author to be "almost entirely new; it treats of matters little studied as yet, because they occupy a region intermediate between history and the social sciences; it accordingly addresses at the same time two different publics, but it should interest rather the specialists in the social sciences than the historians."

Professor Seignobos is a master in the field of historical methodology. Indeed, the book above named, with Bernheim's *Lehrbuch der historischen Methode*, will no doubt rank without serious challenge as the most comprehensive and authoritative summaries of historiography from the French and German standpoints respectively. Of the first part of the book it is needless to speak. With reference to the second

half, I may testify that in one instance it surely justifies the author's assumption that it will interest sociologists. Many flaws in methods of conducting sociological inquiries are suggested by these discussions. The book deserves the attention of the sociologists, and it has a mission to perform among us. Perhaps as a sign that it begins its salutary work at once, it gives me a very lively sense of lack. It calls for repetition of a remark that I have ventured before, viz., that the historians have done wonders in the way of perfecting ways of doing the thing, but they are still very far from a satisfactory conception of what is the thing worth doing. It marked a long stride in the right direction when historians found out that the tattle of courts and camps was a very small fraction of the proper material of history. Yet this is but a short step, after all, in the direction of adequate social valuation. We have not done very much, after all, when we have stopped retailing the pointless performances of princes and soldiers and betaken ourselves to exploiting equally meaningless motions of masses of people. It would be an inexcusable misrepresentation to imply that the categories of social facts which Professor Seignobos discusses deserve the epithet "meaningless." On the contrary, they are categories which in the present state of social science we find indispensable. At the same time, if such categories were filled out, they would seem to the sociologist to be a collection of historical abortions. No better material could be asked for by the sociologist in illustration of his claim that history must go to sociology for a system of categories that will call for the real meanings of social activities.

The still more serious reflection for the sociologist, however, is that his science has not yet furnished these meaning categories. If the historians are still floundering between the Scylla of dogma that destroys fact with fiction, and the Charybdis of detail without depth of meaning, it is because the sociologists have as yet fallen so far short of performing their chosen and boasted function. We have not yet made sufficient impression upon the historians to convince them that the categories which they are using are relatively superficial. We have not yet shown them that there are things better worth knowing than those with which historical research at present ends. The fortunes of sociology very largely hang upon the fate of its attempts to discover deeper correlations of human facts than historians have posited.

A. W. S.